

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Joseph A. FERNANDO et al Docket No.: UNF-9058 A  
Serial No: New Continuation-in-Part Application Group Art Unit: 1764  
Filed: April 28, 2000 Examiner: H. Tran  
For: SUPPORT ELEMENT FOR FRAGILE STRUCTURES SUCH AS  
CATALYTIC CONVERTERS



11/17  
CA  
12/11/00

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE  
MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants submit this paper in compliance with their duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR §1.56.

The Applicants wish to introduce art having some relevance to the present application, which has been listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This form includes twenty-eight (28) United States patent documents, two (2) foreign patent documents, and two (2) non-patent literature items. No representation is made that a specific search has been made by Applicants, that the information is material to the claimed subject matter, or that the information represents the only or the best information.

Certificate of Express Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail - Label No. EL493656897US - "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" in an envelope with sufficient postage addressed to: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Laura A. Rafn  
(type or print name of person signing paper)

Laura A. Rafn  
(signature of person mailing paper)

4-28-00  
(date)

This application is a continuation-in-part of United States Serial No. 09/038,243, filed on March 11, 1998. This earlier application is relied upon for the filing date of the present continuation-in-part application, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120. The art being cited includes art which has previously either been submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Applicants or that has been cited by the Examiner during the prosecution of the parent application. "A copy of any patent, publication, or other information listed in an information disclosure statement is not required to be provided if it was previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application, provided that the prior application is properly identified in the statement and relied on for earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120." 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). Prior art submitted by Applicants or cited by the Examiner in the parent application can be found in the file wrapper of the parent application and, therefore, copies of those references are not enclosed.

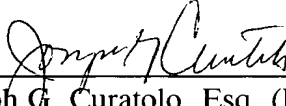
The Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention but rather it is information of which they are aware and believe should be provided to the Office in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure. Any question that may arise regarding the priority of a specific document shall be resolved during prosecution.

The information provided herewith is in the English language. The referenced art is being cited for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to make an evaluation and to arrive at an independent assessment of materiality of each document, if any, to the examination of this application. The Examiner is requested to disregard any marking on the enclosed copies of the cited documents. Markings on the enclosed copies should not be regarded as necessarily pointing out the portions of the subject documents regarded by the Applicants as relevant to the subject application. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited be made of record in the subject case.

**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed contemporaneously with the filing of the present continuation-in-part application. No certification or fee is due with this filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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